

KNOX COUNTY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Thursday – February 17, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

The Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting of the Knox County Commission was held on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 5:00 P.M., via ZOOM.

Commission members present were: Dorothy G. Meriwether, Commissioner District #1, Richard L. Parent, Jr., Commissioner District #2 and Sharyn L. Pohlman, Commissioner District #3.

County staff present included: County Administrator Andrew Hart, Sheriff Tim Carroll, Finance Director Kathy Robinson, Building Maintenance Manager James Hagan and Systems Administrator Mike Dean.

Budget Committee members present: Chair Shawn Levasseur, Roger Peabody, Gayle Gallant, Charles Grover, Nick Lapham (5:09 p.m.) and Bob Duke (5:10 p.m.).

Absent: Barry Norris, Randy Stearns, Register of Probate Elaine Hallett, Register of Deeds Madelene Cole, Jail Administrator Bob Wood, Airport Manager Jeremy Shaw, Prosecutorial Assistant/Investigator Shane Riley and District Attorney Natasha Irving, Administrative Assistant Wendy Galvin, Communications Director Robert Coombs and EMA Director Ray Sisk.

Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting – Agenda via ZOOM

Thursday – February 3, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.

- I. 5:00 **Meeting Called To Order** (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)
- II. 5:01 **Public Comment**
- III. 5:03 **Approve Minutes** (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)
 1. Minutes of Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting of January 20, 2022.
- IV. 5:05 **Supplemental/Amended Budget Review**
 1. Further Review of ARPA Projects – Knox County Departmental List
 2. Further Review of ARPA Projects - Municipalities & Non-Profits
- V. **Adjourn**

I. Meeting Called to Order

The February 17, 2022 Joint Supplemental Budget Meeting was called to Order by Budget Committee Chair Shawn Levasseur and Commissioner Chair Dorothy Meriwether at 5:03 P.M.

II. Administrator Hart spoke:

- He received an email from Peter Beckett, Selectman from Town of Appleton. This email is regarding the broadband application that was submitted by the Town of Appleton. This was not place on the ARPA list, and the request was for \$228, 736.00 for broadband. The list will be updated for the March 3rd meeting. No broadband requests have been moved forward as of now. This was an oversight and Administrator Hart apologizes for this.
- The Department Manager list has been updated with the yellow items being agreed upon to move forward the tentative approval. Those are broken down by department and private sector. The other ones are ones that have not been discussed yet. This list has been revised based upon the “Interim Final Rule” from the last meeting we had a couple weeks ago.

- Once we finish with the Department list we can then go back to the Municipal nonprofit list if we have time tonight. What applications does the Budget Committee and the Commission want to see for the March 3rd meeting?
- Commissioner Meriwether stated that the Knox County Homeless Coalition reached out to her and would like to speak and the March 3rd meeting. Amy Drinkwater also would like to speak at the next meeting.
- Commissioner Pohlman agrees with Commissioner Meriwether and would like the Homeless Coalition to come in to speak.
- Administrator Hart said that we have a meeting for March 3rd and that is the last one we have scheduled. We need to discuss if we want or when we want another meeting(s) to get on the calendar for everyone. We can always cancel what meetings we do not need to have.

III. Public Comment:

Chair Levasseur asked if there was any Public comment.

- Peter Beckett, Selectmen Town of Appleton – Would like to see Agendas and Minutes on the County website. All towns in Knox County feel they deserve part of the money. Most other States they take care of roads etc. He thinks they should take 50% of the ARPA money and allocate to high priority requests people have made, and the other 50% allocate to all the towns based on head count. He feels it's a much fairer way of dealing with this and would be a much easier way of streamlining this.

IV. Approve Minutes (Chair Shawn Levasseur for the Knox County Budget Committee, Commission Chair Dorothy Meriwether for the Knox County Commission)

1. Minutes of the January 20, 2022 Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting.

- *Roger Peabody made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint Commission and Budget Committee Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting January 20, 2022. Charles Grover seconded the motion. A vote was taken with five (5) in favor. Gayle Gallant abstained.*
- *Commissioner Parent made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Joint Commission and Budget Committee Supplemental/Amended Budget Review Meeting January 20, 2022. Commissioner Pohlman seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

VI. Supplemental/Amended Budget Review:

1. Further Review of the ARPA Projects – Knox County Departmental List:

- Administrator Hart verified that the yellow highlighted ones are tentatively approved on the list. The ones in white have not been discussed. We can start at Building Maintenance and work our way through.

Discussion: Personal Protective Equipment

- Will this be a permanent way between the Public and employees in the Courthouse
- Administrator Hart stated that this gives separation. We were thinking of taking out the window and replacing with a Plexiglas pass-through so people could just pass paperwork in so people were not actually going into the offices.
- Commissioner Meriwether stated the amount of money that is being requested is only \$6,000, and considering the reality that Covid is probably going to be endemic, we should leave that money for the County to be able to fall back on where it is Public health.
- James Hagan spoke and stated that initially we hung Plexiglas by chain, and does not look very professional and needs to be upgraded.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Building Maintenance's request for Person Protective Equipment for \$6,050 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Gayle Gallant, Roger Peabody and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 3 (Nick Lapham, Bob Duke, and Charles Grover)
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Building Maintenance’s request for Person Protective Equipment for \$6,050 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Meriwether, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Pohlman)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item will stay on the list.

Discussion: Courthouse HVAC

- Administrator Hart is recommending that this item be removed. We will look at budgeting for this in the future budget.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Building Maintenance’s request for Courthouse HVAC for \$175,900.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Building Maintenance’s request for Courthouse HVAC for \$175,900.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item will be removed from the list.

Discussion: Water items

- Sheriff spoke regarding the Water issues. Due to the medical contract we asked to remove a few of the Capital items from the list in hopes that they would be passed on to this Departmental list. We had made a request for the masonry, paving, toilet valve replacement and dishwasher we asked the DOC if we could sue some of the funds they had available. Of the requests made from twelve (12) Counties, they were funding 60% of the requests. We asked for \$464,000 for those items and right now it looks like we will receive \$278,000.00 which would cover the masonry, paving, toilet valve replacement and dishwasher. The dishwasher and water can come of the newest list based on our change in rules of how we are looking at appropriating the monies. The dishwasher had been approved previously, but is now longer needed.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for Water items for \$39,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections Facility's request for Water items for \$39,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item will be removed.

Discussion: Discharge Planner

- The Sheriff– Discharge Planner due to County Jail is not doing an appropriate job in adequately planning when discharging a person. We need to have things in place for them like housing, transportations and opportunities for employment so they can succeed.
- A Budget Committee member asked if this would be added into the future budgets, correct.
- Sheriff stated yes.
- A Budget Committee member asked if we add these positions will there be annual budget increases of 5, 6 or 7%?
- Sheriff stated that all the time he is looking for ways to save expenses. Some of these things at some point may be forced upon us to do; this gives us at least an opportunity to see if this works.
- A Budget Committee member stated that if the legislature is so hot on this, and Augusta thinks it's so important, and then they should be doing the funding and not the County. The other concern is this is just an automatic increase for the budget and not sure if this is an ARPA project.
- The Sheriff said he understands, but it is an opportunity for us to see if we can do something better.
- A Budget Committee member said he understands the concept; this is not the place to add a personnel. Add it to the budget next year.
- A Commissioner spoke and said she would rather see this position approved than premium pay given to departments other than Corrections and Communications. As the Sheriff has said 80% of the people that are in the Jail currently suffer from either substance abuse or mental health problems. The cost of someone out on the streets getting proper treatment is opposed to what is cost for a day in Jail, and anything we can do to bring people back into society in a constructive way and keep them out of Jail she thinks is worth every cent that is spent.
- A Budget Committee member stated he supports this position, but having trouble supporting this funding request opposed to the budget. Can this be offset against some of the premium pay? We are still adding someone on an ongoing basis and we should address it then.
- A Commissioner stated she thinks this does apply to American Rescue Plan dollars. American Rescue Plan was very specifically targeted to the disadvantaged and those most effected by the pandemic. All you have to do is read the Sheriff's monthly reports to understand the devastating impact on people that suffer from substance abuse and mental disorders through what's happened with Covid.
- The other two Commissioners both said they agree with that statement.
- A Budget Committee member stated do we believe that if we throw money at a problem it's really going to solve it. Four months ago we reviewed a budget, and if this was such a need and in such passion about it, this should have been put on the budget that is now in place. How many times have we taken free money from the government to add a position? We are not testing this position. We are adding these positions, they are going to be permanent, and we don't get rid of people after we hire them. This position probably has its merits but this is not the place. He's only talking to the Budget Committee members.
- A Commissioner stated that the Commission was required by statue and threatened by attorney's to have the Budget Committee involved. This was required by statue.
- The Sheriff spoke and said he understands, but these would be under the Corrections piece and he is at a cap. He was at the cap because of the huge medical expense.
- Administrator Hart stated that originally the Sheriff had this position in the budget, but because of the increase in the medical contract those positions were backed out. So that is a struggle that we will have next year.
- A Budget Committee member asked once you hire these people will they become part of the union and these positions will be part of the budget. What happens? Is there a way hire these people on a contract basis and then we get to revisit it at budget time.
- Administrator Hart stated that it still will come down to; can we afford it in the budget, and stay within the cap?

- A Budget Committee member stated that if it’s clear that we will not be able to afford this next year because of the cap then this does not make any sense. This is a budget item and should be addressed at that time.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Discharge Planner for \$68,625.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 0
 Against: 6 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover, and Shawn Levasseur)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was a unanimous vote against.

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Discharge Planner for \$68,625.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
 Against: 0
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was a unanimous vote in favor.

Discussion: Diversion Deputy

- None

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Diversion Deputy for \$73,511.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 0
 Against: 6 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was a unanimous vote against.

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Diversion Deputy for \$73,511.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
 Against: 0
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was a unanimous vote in favor.

Discussion: Community Liaison Officer

- Finance Director Robinson stated the Community Liaison Officer that is for the Sheriff’s Office vs Corrections, so this would not be up against the cap when we go through the budget process. This would also be not an employee but a contracted position.
- The Sheriff stated that Waldo County hired one (1) last year and two (2) more Community Liaison Officers this year because of the success of the program. This person is not a sworn law enforcement officer they are strictly a Community Liaison Officer. They respond not to crimes, but other calls that come in.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department request for a Community Liaison Officer for \$90,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 1 (Gayle Gallant)
Against: 5 (Nick Lapham, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was a 1 in favor and 5 against.

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department request for a Community Liaison Officer for \$90,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item was a unanimous vote in favor.

Discussion: Scanner

- Sheriff stated that in the past year there have been four (4) County Jail facilities in the State that have purchased these body scanners. It is for safety for the Officers, the arrestee as well as safety for the whole facility. The big problem every Jail has is drug diversion. This would be a safety mechanism for all.
- A Budget Committee asked does this fit within the guidelines of the ARPA funds?
- Finance Director Robinson stated that anything that is on the list is eligible and able to vote on it.
- A Budget Committee member asked if this scanner was similar to the one at the Airport.
- The Sheriff stated it is.
- A Budget Committee member wanted to clarify that they are approving these things for final consideration at a later date, correct.
- Administrator Hart said the real intent was to keep on list or remove. Just because we keep it on the list does not mean it’s automatically approved, we still have to go through the final vote.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Scanner for \$180,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 5 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody and Charles Grover)
Against: 1 (Shawn Levasseur)
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Corrections Facility’s request for a Scanner for \$180,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0*

This item will stay on the list.

Discussion: Digital Communications

- Sheriff stated that their current radio systems are in analog and through FCC compliance stated they need to switch to digital.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department & Corrections Facility’s request for a Digital Communication for \$34,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department & Corrections Facility’s request for a Digital Communication for \$34,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item will be kept on the list.

Discussion: Audio/Video

- IT Director Dean stated this would be updating the audio/video for the Commissioners Hearing Room to do more effective Zoom meetings. This will also allow more effective hybrid meetings. There will be a PC, TV and cart with a few upgrades so the broadcast streaming quality is improved.
- A Budget Committee member asked if this was the AV equipment we had at the last meeting.
- It Director Dean said yes. We were able to cut it down, and came up with this solution.
- A Budget Committee member said he thinks it should be in the budget. The expenditures should be spread across the County.
- IT Director Dean stated that it has been in the budget the last two (2) years. This is not a new item.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the IT Department’s request for Audio/Video for \$10,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 4 (Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, and Shawn Levasseur)

Against: 2 (Nick Lapham and Charles Grover)

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the IT Department’s request for Audio/Video for \$10,000.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)

Against: 0

Maybe: 0

Abstained: 0

This item will be kept on the list.

Discussion: Telephone System

- IT Director Dean stated our phone system is still functional, it’s not emergency, but is outdated and needs to be upgraded. The phone system is beyond its life span and even the manufacturer doesn’t support it any longer. This upgrade would get us into the 2020’s.
- A Budget Committee member asked if this would span all the County building and departments.
- IT Director Dean said not 100 % sure about the Airport.
- A Budget Committee member asked how old the current system is.
- IT Director Dean stated it is at least ten (10) years old. We are missing out on features.
- A Budget Committee member asked would switching to digital have any effect on phone bills.

- IT Director Dean said still waiting for the final answer after having a meeting with the phone company.
- A Budget Committee member stated that this items seems like a budget item not ARPA.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the IT Department’s request for Telephone system for \$59,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, and Shawn Levasseur)
 Against: 3 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, and Charles Grover)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the IT Department’s request for Telephone system for \$59,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 0
 Against: 3 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item will be removed.

Discussion: Watercraft

- The Sheriff is willing to remove this from the list.
- A Budget Committee member spoke and said that this item has been on a list for a very long time. He feels this is a perfect time and opportunity for us to finally to bridge ourselves to the two (2) most populated islands. Anything that is capital related, that is a onetime expense, this is the time to do it.
- Another Budget Committee member agreed.
- A Commissioner agreed as well.
- A Budget Committee member asked what he thought maintenance per year on a boat would be; around \$3,000.00 - \$4,000.00.
- The Sheriff stated he thought about \$7,000.00.
- A Commissioner stated that she knows this is a critical problem, but feels we are misusing the funds that have been allocated to us.
- A Budget Committee member agreed with the Commissioner.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department’s request for a Watercraft for \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 3 (Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke and Roger Peabody)
 Against: 3 (Nick Lapham, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was a 3 in favor and 3 against.

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Sheriff’s Department’s request for a Watercraft for \$300,000.00 to the ARPA list.

*In favor: 1 (Commissioner Pohlman)
 Against: 2 (Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
 Maybe: 0
 Abstained: 0*

This item was 1 in favor and 2 against.

Private Sector:

Discussion: Building Maintenance & Cleaning

- A Commissioner stated that this is justifiable because in the ARPA there is an allowance to support through grant private businesses. Hagan Property Management is maintaining all of the County properties. When he took this job he was hit by Covid, Last year he lost money as he paid his employees to maintain & clean the multiple buildings constantly. To suffer a loss of \$29,000 is fairly significant.
- A Budget Committee member said he thinks we need to understand what the \$29,000.00 is going for.
- Maintenance Manager Hagan spoke most of the money is for the economic impact. He’s had to pay his employees more per hour to keep them. They have worked a lot of hours because of Covid. They’ve come in on the weekends, and bought extra equipment to make sure everyone’s safe and clean.
- A Budget Committee member wants to know the difference between \$29,900 and when he went to Administrator Hart and told him he needed more money.
- Maintenance Manager Hagan stated it was because of going above and beyond the scope due to Covid. This Covid will be around a while this is not because the ARPA funds are available.
- A Commissioner stated that this is his first year in the cleaning contract.
- A Budget Committee member asked didn’t you consider Covid when you chose your contract.
- Maintenance Manager Hagan stated he didn’t know or understand how serious this was going to be.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Hagan Property Management’s request for Building Maintenance & Cleaning for \$29,687.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 5 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody and Charles Grover)
Against: 1 (Shawn Levasseur)
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Hagan Property Management’s request for Building Maintenance & Cleaning for \$29,687.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item will be kept on the list.

Discussion: Stipends’

- A Budget Committee member stated that we voted no on this last week
- Another Budget Committee member agreed.
- A Budget Committee member stated that if we were going to put any money towards frontline folks it would be to the Knox County employees.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Private Sectors request for Stipends’ for \$1.5 million the ARPA list.

In favor: 0
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Private Sectors request for Stipends’ for \$1.5 million to the ARPA list.

In favor: 0 (Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item will be removed.

Discussion: Medical - Corrections

- The Sheriff stated that over the past couple years we have had five (5) consistent providers. They are a contracted company that hires them to come in and provide medical service to our inmates and staff at times. The request is a hazard duty pay.
- A Budget Committee member asked, is this not part of that huge amount we are paying for medical are they not part of the group.
- The Sheriff stated that they are part of that group.
- A Budget Committee member asked if we know if their employers have given them any additional money.
- The Sheriff said they have not received anything from their employer.
- Administrator Hart said that some of the staff was under the previous medical provider which was QCCH who we did not renew the contract with. We have only had the new medical vendor for 2 months. For a fact they did not receive anything from their employer.
- A Budget Committee member asked that this is for the people that were working for the old provider and now are working for the new one.
- A Budget Committee member asked if this money would go directly to them or to their employer.
- The Sheriff said this money would go directly to them.

A consensus vote was taken by the Budget Committee on whether to add the Medical Corrections’ request for Stipends’ for \$12,500.00 the ARPA list.

In favor: 6 (Nick Lapham, Gayle Gallant, Bob Duke, Roger Peabody, Charles Grover and Shawn Levasseur)
Against: 0
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

A consensus vote was taken by the Commission on whether to add the Medical Corrections’ request for Stipends’ for \$12,500.00 to the ARPA list.

In favor: 2 (Commissioner Pohlman and Commissioner Parent)
Against: 1 (Commissioner Meriwether)
Maybe: 0
Abstained: 0

This item will be kept on the list.

General Discussion:

- A Budget Committee member asked a question: When we were discussing the top stipend group, we left it up in the air whether we were going to consider it just for 2022 or for longer period of time. Are we going to leave it that way or are we going to come to some resolution before we move to the next series of applications.
- Administrator Hart wanted to know what the expectations of the Budget Committee will be for the next meeting. Will we be asking questions, get further information or start making votes? There was one request to have one agency come and speak. If we are going to allow one we need to allow all to speak.
- A Budget Committee member asked how he would open it up to them.
- Administrator Hart stated he would be curious to what they want to present. He doesn’t want someone coming in to reiterate what they’ve already submitted. This is all up to the Budget Committee.

- A Commissioner said it was Pinney Beebe-Center is the one who wanted an opportunity. This is the biggest request and has the most support for the Commission. It is complicated and there might be some misunderstanding. If we hear from any group it should be limited to ten (10) minutes.
- A Budget Committee member asked the rest of the Budget Committee if they feel the rest of the items remaining on the list (Municipalities and Non-profits) they know well enough or do we want any of the groups to come back to speak.
- A Budget Committee member confirmed that the ones in orange on the list the Budget Committee has already said “yes” to further consideration and the ones in yellow are the ones the Commissioners have,
- Finance Director Robinson confirmed the color coding. She stated the items in yellow are from the Commission when they voted without the Budget Committee. Those are the ones that they wanted to keep as a consideration. When the Budget Committee and Commission met, those were not ones that were moved forward, only the ones at the top in orange. She did not un-highlight them because they still were on the initial Commission review “move forward” list.
- A Budget Committee member wanted to know and thought that may be easier.
- A Budget Committee member stated that this should not be rushed through; we want to make sure we have all of the information on everything. What we went through tonight adds up to \$4 million, the list we are looking at now is \$6 million, and we only have \$7 million to deal out. He suggested we need to invite these people back to the next meeting. We can let them know that we will listen to them for ten (10) minutes, ask questions, but no decisions will be made at that time.
- Administrator Hart stated he will get in touch will all seven (7) groups and tell them they will have ten (10) minutes to speak, we will ask question for five (5) minutes. Does the Budget Committee and Commissioners want this list and the department list revised before the next meeting. This way it would give an actual subtotal of what we are looking at. How do we want to continue meeting. We have to consider the final meeting we have to give ten (10) days Public Hearing notice in the paper and online, then we have to get the Budget out to all the Municipalities for them to review. We need to know this in advance.
- A Budget Committee member asked if we were up against a time limit.
- Administrator Hart stated no, we are not.
- The Budget Committee agreed that once every two weeks is working. We will schedule a meeting for March 3rd, March 17th, and March 31st.

- *Nick Lapham made a motion to schedule ARPA Meetings for March 3, March 17 and March 31. Bob Duke seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*
- *Commissioner Pohlman, Commissioner Parent and Commissioner Meriwether agreed to the dates. (No motion was made)*

- Commissioner Meriwether stated that we should agree to take the orange highlighted items from Municipal list needs to be removed off the list. All from Commission and Budget Committee agreed.
- Finance Director Robinson said there will be one list that will include Municipalities and agencies that have the seven (7) that are in orange, and then a list from departments that were tentatively approved. Those will be the only things on the list besides the subtotal.

- *Nick Lapham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charles Grover seconded the motion. A vote was taken with all in favor.*

- *A motion was made by Commissioner Pohlman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Parent. A vote was taken with both in favor.*

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Galvin
Administrative Assistant

The Knox County Commission approved these minutes at their regular meeting held on March 17, 2022.